



City of Arts & Innovation

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Sept. 9, 2015

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City of Riverside Conducts “Walk in Our Shoes” Job Shadowing Event

Elected officials, executive staff and department heads work side by side with employees across city

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – The City of Riverside completed its first “Walk in Our Shoes” event Wednesday, commemorating Labor Day by matching City Council members, executive staff and department heads with employees across Riverside to show firsthand how essential work gets done every day.

Employees spent the morning showing their guests the challenges they deal with on the job, often in the same kind stifling heat that has gripped Riverside throughout the week. Several hours later, those doing the job shadowing reported what they had seen to the rest of the group during a luncheon in the Mayor’s Ceremonial Room at City Hall.

The event was organized by the Service Employees International Union Local 721, with help from the Riverside Police Officers’ Association and the Riverside City Firefighters’ Association.

“This is why I tell people wherever I go that we have the most responsive and responsible employees in the state and in the nation,” Mayor Rusty Bailey said at the luncheon. “Thank you for sharing your experiences with everyone in the room so that we can better understand the issues and challenges you face in the field.”

The assignments were varied. City Councilman Mike Soubirous spent the morning power-washing sidewalks at Bobby Bonds Park with Alyssa Lozano from the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. Councilman Jim Perry was paired with Frank Lee, a Public Works employee who clears sewer lines.

“I have a whole new level of respect for the gentlemen and ladies doing these jobs on a day-in and day-out basis,” Perry said. “I was especially impressed with the pride with which our employees went about getting this work done.”

Police Chief Sergio Diaz walked a beat with Riverside Public Utilities meter reader Matthew Bishop. Fire Chief Mike Moore served enchiladas to senior citizens at Dales Senior Center with Parks employee Megan Rudd.

“It was really an example of servant leadership,” Chief Moore said. “I look forward to stopping by and volunteering in the future.”

Enrique Barboza, a parking control representative who served as chairman of the event committee, thanked everyone for participating in the program.

“We’re the people who keep this city working, and it’s 24 hours a day,” Barboza said. “Thank you so much for walking in our shoes.”